

Date _____

Central Washington University
Location Notification of Intent
B.A. Psychology
CWU-Des Moines, Lynnwood, Pierce County

Substantive Statement of Need

CWU is seeking to offer a psychology major at three university centers located in Des Moines, Lynnwood, and Pierce County. Currently the psychology department offers a minor at all three locations.

Student Demand

Students at all of these centers have consistently expressed both interest in pursuing a psychology major and frustration that their options for CWU bachelor degree programs in the Seattle area are so limited. Data from CWU's Office of Institutional Research shows an upward trend in the number of psychology minors for the past three years as demonstrated in the table below:

Trend in Westside Psychology Minors

	Spring 2004	Spring 2005	Spring 2006
Des Moines	5	7	12
Lynnwood	17	38	40
Pierce County	24	21	23
Total	46	66	75

In addition, a recent student survey of community college students enrolled in introductory psychology classes at Edmonds, Everett, and Highline indicate that 42% of the respondents (86 out of 202) are interested in pursuing a degree in psychology from Central Washington University if it were offered at a CWU university center in the Puget Sound area.

Employer Demand

The online website for WorkForce Explorer indicates whether certain occupations are currently in demand, balanced, or not in demand in specific regions. A search of psychology-related occupations in the Seattle King County Workforce Development Area indicate anticipated demand for occupations such as 1) Child, Family and School Social Workers, 2) Social and Human Service Assistants, 3) Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors, and 4) All Other Counselors. All of these occupations require significant training in psychology, with most requiring a minimum of a bachelor's degree.

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According to the October 2005, HECB “State and Regional Needs Assessment Report,” there is strong community need in the Seattle area of individuals trained in health-related fields. Psychology graduates are often employed in medical settings and/or provide health-related services in the area of mental health. Additionally, “demand in specific occupations is not met by current supply....Growth in human and protective service occupations rely most heavily on graduates of social science programs. Social science programs have not grown substantially in the number of graduates over the past three years and growth in specific majors may be warranted to meet employer needs, especially in social work and protective service professions” p. 29.

In the specific Seattle King County area, participation rates in post-secondary education fall slightly short of the average. According to the HECB Needs Assessment report, an additional 401 lower division enrollments are projected to bring the total 2010-2011 projection to 52,503 FTE and upper division enrollments would need “to increase 292 enrollments to match the state participation rate” p. 62-63.

Staffing for a psychology major at CWU-Des Moines would be possible due the recent relocation of a CWU full time tenure track psychology faculty member to Des Moines. Depending upon other programmatic decisions, there may also be a second full time tenure track position allocated to the Westside. These two additional faculty would join two full time non-tenure psychology faculty already in residence at Pierce County and Lynnwood.

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HECB Form 5

Enrollment Targets

Year	1	2	Full enrollment
Headcount	18	36	54
FTE	15	30	45